TACOM

Lethality, Survivability, Mobility and Sustainment for America's Army

Rapidly Emplaced Bridging System (REBS) SSEB Lessons Learned

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What's a BEBS?

Inadvertent Disclosure of Electronic Data

- Problem
  - Tom Meyer's Sep 01 message: if you use templates, use 'clean ones'; don't re-use prior documents
  - MS Word does NOT completely remove deleted or modified electronic text
  - Original documents, with overwrites, adds & deletes can be accessed by various programs, e.g., Notepad, WordPerfect, language translation programs
- Indicator
  - File size; a routine IFD ranges from 20 to 23 kb.

Inadvertent Disclosure of Electronic Data

- Solutions
  - Don’t use templates you’ve previously modified
  - Saving MS Word text documents in Rich Text Format (*.RTF) significantly reduces the file size (8-12 kb) and appears to eliminate embedded data
    - However, if the MS Word file has graphics, saving in *.RTF significantly increases file size
  - Scan documents into *.PDF files and attach to email

Activities prior to SSEB

- Identify evaluators as early as possible and obtain their input on Sections L & M - Team Leaders at a minimum
- Make sure your evaluation factors are expected to be measurable discriminators and worth paying a premium price for
- Develop a ‘cross-walk’ between Sections L & M and the Purchase Description to specifically identify what is and what is not evaluated - and under which area, element or factor (See Example)
- All SSEB/SSAC personnel should be in agreement with the ‘cross-walk’ and purchase description

Section L & PD Paragraph Crosswalk - Example

- L.2.1 Element 1 Technical Performance
- Factor 3: MANPRINT

  - Provide information, data, simulations, or calculations that address performance in the domains of Human Factors Engineering, System Safety, Health Hazards, and Manpower, Personnel and Training (PD 3.5 and 3.6, including all sub-paragraphs). Describe in detail the proposed bridge marking system and driver's aids (PD 3.3.3.5). The offeror shall include an assessment of the task difficulty associated with the launch/retrieval process, and of the training required to safely operate the REBS.

Section L & PD Paragraph Crosswalk - Example

Manprint (L.2.1, F3)

3.5 - Safety

3.5.1 - Launch/Retrieval

3.3.2.3 - Safety Against Overturning or Rotation

3.3.4.4.2 - Weather and Adverse Environment Factors (Wind Load during launching only)

3.5.2 - Bridge Surface

3.5.3 - Bridge Crossing

3.3.3.4 - REB Stability (ref. Bridge Stability in para. 3.5.3)

3.3.3.5 - Drivers Aids and Bridge Marking System

3.3.3.6 - Clear roadway Travel Surface (ref. 3.5.3)

3.6 - Human Factors Engineering

Para L.2.1 - Health Hazard, Manpower, Personnel, Training and task difficulty associated with the launch/retrieve process.

BOLD Indicates PD paragraph included by Section L reference

Activities prior to SSEB Cont.

- Develop realistic milestone schedule
- Agree on how to handle dissenting opinions
- Set up facilities, equipment & housekeeping well in advance
- Get Bob Spitzbarth to present SSEB In-Briefing, tailored to your buy, to all SSEB members.
- Agree on the specifics of adjectival definitions contained in the SSP (+/-) and create summary evaluation matrix (See Example)

REBS TECHNICAL AREA ADJECTIVAL DEFINITIONS - Example

Exceptional/Very Low Risk: The proposal has exceptional merit and reflects an excellent approach that will clearly result in the attainment of all requirements and objectives. The approach includes numerous substantive advantages, essentially no disadvantages, and can be expected to result in outstanding performance. The approach is completely feasible and practical. The proposal provides clear, precise, fully supported information and demonstrates a clear understanding of the requirements.

Good/Low Risk: The proposal reflects a sound approach that is expected to meet all requirements and objectives. The approach includes substantive advantages; includes disadvantages, if any, that are both relatively minor and few in number; and can be expected to result in very satisfactory performance. The approach is feasible and practical. The proposal provides clear, precise, supported information and demonstrates an understanding of the requirements.

Adequate/Moderate Risk: The proposal reflects an approach that is capable of meeting all requirements and objectives. The approach includes advantages and disadvantages of substance, the advantages are not outweighed by the disadvantages, and the approach can be expected to result in satisfactory performance. The approach is generally feasible and practical. The proposal provides somewhat clear, precise, and partially supported information and demonstrates a general understanding of the requirements.

REBS TECHNICAL AREA ADJECTIVAL DEFINITIONS MATRIX - Example

Adjectival Definition	Capability of Approach in Meeting Objectives	Advantages/ Disadvantages	Proposed Solutions and Expected Performance	Proposal Content and Demonstrated Understanding
Exceptional/Very Low Risk	An excellent approach that will clearly result in meeting all requirements and objectives	Proposal has numerous substantive advantages, essentially no disadvantages	Solutions are completely feasible and practical, outstanding performance expected	Proposal contains clear, precise, fully supported information and demonstrates a clear understanding of requirements
Good/Low Risk	A sound approach that is expected to meet all requirements and objectives	Proposal includes substantive advantages; includes disadvantages, if any, that are both relatively minor and few in number	Solutions are feasible and practical, very satisfactory performance expected	Proposal contains clear, precise, supported information and demonstrates an understanding of requirements
Adequate/Moderate Risk	An approach that is capable of meeting all requirements and objectives	Proposal includes advantages and disadvantages of substance, the advantages are not outweighed by the disadvantages	Solutions are generally feasible and practical, satisfactory performance expected	Proposal contains somewhat clear, precise, and partially supported information and demonstrates a general understanding of requirements
Marginal/High Risk	An approach that may not be capable of meeting all requirements and objectives	Proposal includes disadvantages of substance and advantages which, if they exist, are outweighed by the disadvantages	Solutions may not be feasible and practical, less than satisfactory performance expected	Proposal information lacks clarity or precision, is generally unsupported and does not demonstrate a complete understanding of the requirements
Poor/Very High Risk	An approach which will not be capable of meeting all requirements and objectives	Proposal includes numerous disadvantages of substance, and advantages which, if they exist, are far outweighed by the disadvantages	Solutions are not feasible and practical and will not result in satisfactory performance	Proposal lacks any clarity or precision, is unsupported and does not demonstrate an understanding of the requirements

During the SSEB

- Physically assemble the SSEB prior to receipt of proposals - allow them to ‘hit the ground running’
- During this time:
  - Specifically define roles & responsibilities
  - Re-focus on SSP, SOW, PD and Sections L&M
  - Provide examples of actual IFDs and evaluations and provide training in these processes

During the SSEB
Cont.

- While applying lessons learned, recognize that every acquisition is different
  - What is being bought
  - Issues
  - People
- Coordinate with SSA/SSAC to obtain input on how they want the information formatted
- Develop templates and formats for briefing slides and evaluations

During the SSEB Cont.

- Tracking IFDs is more difficult than you think - both in preparing them and processing responses
  - Naming/titling conventions (drafts vs. finals)
  - Review process (evaluator, lead, SSEB mgmt, buyer, legal, PCO)
  - Watch out for issues ‘falling between the cracks’
  - Ensure notification of right people when responses are received
- Conducting legal reviews of IFDs on-site worked best
- Develop a document tracking database
  - Provide access to all SSEB members
  - Track evolution of document revisions (IFDs & evals)
  - Have a central repository for these documents

During the SSEB
Cont.

- Active and involved participation of the PCO and Legal is crucial to the SSEB's success
- The SSEB should maintain contact with the SSA/SSAC to solicit guidance and assist in resolution of issues - speak to them when necessary - they are a valuable tool
- Evaluators on TDY or off-site need to maintain continuous contact with the SSEB

Wrap-Up

- Decision Memo agreed to and signed by SSA
- Sent redacted Decision Memo to all offerors
- The redacted Decision Memo provided more information than what can be provided in a debrief
- No debriefs were requested

After the SSEB

Celebrate!